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NEW YORK (AP) - THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE PATRIOTISM, AN 8-YEAR-OLD ORGANIZATION WITH ABOUT 150 MEMBERS ON ITS ROLLS, LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TUESDAY TO MUSTER SUPPORT FOR THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

CHARLES W. WILEY, THE COMMITTEE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SAID "OPERATION DEFENSE" WOULD TRY TO ENLIST NATIONAL SUPPORT.

"THE RECENT HEAVY CRITICISMS OF THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE THREATENING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND SINCE THEY'RE OUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE, IT WOULD BE NATIONAL SUICIDE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOT TO COME TO THEIR SUPPORT," WILEY TOLD REPORTERS.

"ACROSS THE WORLD, MANY THINK WE'RE EITHER ADULTS GONE MAD OR DISNEYLAND DISGUISED AS A REAL COUNTRY."

WILEY SAID HE IS "VERY MUCH AGAINST" USE OF INVESTIGATIVE BODIES SUCH AS THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OR THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. BUT HE SAID "HAMPERING LEGITIMATE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING IS A FAR GREATER MENACE TO FREEDOM AND PRIVACY THAN THE ACTIVITIES THEMSELVES."

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